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Soviet to Free Powers May 1, Paper Says

L O N D O N, April 12

(Wednesday) — The London Daily Mail said today U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers will be freed from a Soviet prison in the next few weeks and will choose to stay in Russia.

The Mail's Moscow correspondent, John Mossman, said Powers probably will be freed May 1—exactly a year after his reconnaissance plane was shot down.

And the newspaper quoted Mrs. Powers as saying in New York:

"I would love to go to Moscow to join my husband. I will go out to him if possible, even if he decided to stay on after his release."

Mossman quoted no Russian source for his story, but reported:

"He (Powers) is believed to be in Vladimir prison, near Moscow. His release is planned as a demonstration of increased good will between the Soviet Union and America."

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said "we haven't heard anything about it."

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